

The Chinese Monitor

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Topic: Chinese School Culture

Length: Three-Day Lesson Plan

Overall theme of the lesson:

Chinese classrooms are made up of 50-60 students and one of the reasons students are successful in such a large classroom is because students are managed by their peers with one of their classmates playing the lead role as the classroom monitor or BanZhang 班长. The lesson will involve the students learning about the role of classroom management in Chinese culture with students playing a key role. First students will be given a short introduction to the topic, then watch the documentary *Please Vote for Me*. The lesson will end with a class discussion of the film and having an actual vote for the Ban Zhang in the class.

National World Language Standard(s) addressed by this lesson:

- 1) ACTFL - Cultures 2.1 – Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of the culture studied.
- 2) ACTFL – Cultures 2.2 – Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the products and perspectives of the culture studied.
- 3) ACTFL – Connections 3.1 – Students reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through the foreign language.
- 4) ACTFL – Connections 3.2 – Students acquire information and recognize the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the foreign language and its cultures.
- 5) ACTFL – Comparisons 4.2 – Students demonstrate understanding of the concept of culture through comparisons of the cultures studied and their own.

Instructional Objectives (over three days):

Teacher will:

- 1st Day - The teacher will teach a short introductory lesson about Chinese school culture. 15 minutes. <http://toboldlygo.strikingly.com/blog/class-monitors-in-china>
- 1st Day - The teacher will show the 1 hour documentary *Please Vote for Me*. Students will fill out worksheet while watching.
- 2nd Day – The teacher will stop video at 45 minutes into the video (before they vote in the film) and students will vote for who they think will become the classroom monitor in the film. Teacher tallies the classroom’s votes and then shows the ending of the film.
- 2nd Day - The teacher will have a class discussion after ending the film on second day, discussing the results and why they think who one.

The Chinese Monitor

- 2nd Day - The teacher will lead a discussion with the class and will ask if the classroom monitor system would be useful in the American classroom.
- 2nd Day - The teacher will encourage students to choose and vote who would be the best monitor for their teacher in the US classroom.
- 3rd Day - The teacher will give students time to compete becoming the class monitor by giving a speech, performing a talent, debating their objectives and voting for the class monitor in their US classroom.
- 3rd Day - Students will vote for and then discuss the results.

Performance Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- The students will be able to compare 3rd graders and life in China compared to that in an American classroom.
- The students will be able to see how democracy works in among Chinese youth, families and compare with American society.
- The students will be able to see how schools are conducted in China
- The students will be able compare the role of family and honor in the Chinese lifestyles of young children.
- The students will be able to discuss the comparisons between how they vote and the Chinese students in the film.

Assessment:

The students will be given the following summative assessment after the three days. They will be graded on the following:

- 60% - Participation
- 20% - Complete a worksheet that follows the content of the film.
- 20% - Write a short reaction essay about the film and what they learned in class.

Resources:

Please Vote for Me - Video

<https://vimeo.com/373933>

Please Vote for Me is a 2007 documentary film following the elections for class monitor in a 3rd grade class of eight-year-old children in the Evergreen Primary School in Wuhan, China. [Wikipedia](#)

Initial release: September 6, 2007

The Chinese Monitor

Director: [Weijun Chen](#)

Produced by: [Don Edkins](#)

Film series: [Why Democracy?](#)

Explanation of Chinese Classroom Monitor

<http://toboldygo.strikingly.com/blog/class-monitors-in-china>

Please Vote For Me 请投我一票

Answer the following in English

1. Who usually chooses the class monitors in the classroom in China? _____

2. Luo Lei, Cheng Cheng, Xu Xiaofei were chosen by the teachers to be elected, describe their personalities when they talk with their parents about running for class monitor.

Describe each candidate in a sentence or two. (Pause at 9:45 to give time to answer)

3. What did Cheng Cheng and his classmates plan to do before Xiaofei's performance? _____

4. What did Luo Lei's parents decide to do to boost his classmates support?

5. What did Xiaofei's mother prepare her to do during the debate.

6. What did ChengCheng accuse Luo Lei of being (1), and what did Luo Lei accuse Chengcheng of being in their debate(2)? 1.) _____ 2.) _____

7. After the votes were cast who won? What was the reaction of the other two students?

8. In your own thoughts, why did the students vote for who they did? Explain why you think the way you do.
